Foreign Affairs in Haiti saying that its presence was illegal and that it was functioning in "undefined and irregular" circumstances. The note went on to ask the Mission to halt all activity in Haiti.

MICIVIH described the human rights situation in Haiti as extremely worrisome, and noted that very strong pressure was being exerted on supporters of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. In the past five months, it has received information on 340 extra-judicial killings and suspect deaths, 131 kidnappings and forced disappearances, and several hundred illegal arrests followed by ill treatment.

* * *

The new Special Representative for Rwanda, Shahryar Khan, met today with General Paul Kagame of the Rwandese Patriotic Front (RPF), and reached an agreement on the reopening of Kigali airport in order to facilitate humanitarian deliveries. A United Nations spokesman said the first flight into the airport was expected to arrive tomorrow morning.

General Kagame also indicated that the RPF would give quick landing clearance to any reinforcements for the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR), the spokesman noted. Mr. Khan will travel to Zaire tomorrow to meet with the Commander of the French force in Rwanda.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has recommended that the United Nations reestablish its political presence in Afghanistan, with Jalalabad serving as a provisional location if Kabul is not suitable. In a note to the General Assembly and the Security Council dated 1 July, the Secretary-General also recommended that the Organization begin in-depth consultations with Afghan leaders on establishing a viable transitional authority and a complete cease-fire -- both essential conditions for free and fair elections. Specialized agencies and programmes, especially the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), should move back in order to coordinate political reconstruction, he added.

The Secretary-General said the Afghan people saw the United Nations as the only answer to the conflict in their country. The stalemated political and military equation could be altered with practical diplomacy, not with large peace-keeping forces. He recommended that a working group of countries interested in peace and reconstruction be established to assist United Nations peace efforts and to prepare for an international conference on Afghanistan.

* * *

The Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) today recommended that the Secretary-General be authorized to commit up to $15.7 million for the International Civilian Mission in Haiti (MICIVIH) until 31 March 1995, if the General Assembly extends its mandate for one year. Those funds would be covered by the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

(more)

Joseph E. Connor, Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management, told the Committee that United Nations peace-keeping operations faced a total of $2.1 billion in unpaid assessed contributions. The cash supply to those operations could be exhausted by the end of July, he warned.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has said there is now a large measure of agreement on the substance of his confidence-building measures for Cyprus and on the modalities for their implementation. He made that comment in a letter to the Security Council President dated 28 June, after certain issues were clarified during talks with the parties last month. However, he pointed out that there was still no agreement on how to record those clarifications. If such an agreement were reached, the parties could confirm their readiness to cooperate in implementing the measures. The talks with the parties were conducted by Special Representative Joe Clark, following the Secretary-General's report on Cyprus dated 30 May.

That report said hopes for an agreement on the confidence-building measures had been dashed because of the Turkish Cypriot stance, and reiterated that the proposals for Varosha and Nicosia International Airport were reasonable and fair. In view of the unsatisfactory situation, the report outlined the following options for the Security Council to consider: withdrawing United Nations peace-keeping resources; using coercive measures to compel the Turkish Cypriots to be more flexible; setting the measures aside and resuming talks on questions of substance; conducting a fundamental reflection on the situation; and renewing international efforts to gain an agreement, building on the fact that the measures had been accepted in principle. In his letter to the President, the Secretary-General said the Council might now wish to consider those options in view of the developments in the recent talks.

* * *

Every citizen must be guaranteed the opportunity for economic and social development, according to General Assembly President S.R. Insanally. He was addressing the Second International Conference on New and Restored Democracies in Managua on Monday. Basic rights, such as education, health and housing must be provided to guarantee a stable and democratic society. Without meaningful assistance, developing countries burdened with external debt and structural adjustment programmes were condemned to stagnation or even complete economic and social chaos.

President Insanally said the international community could help with debt restructuring, reductions in interest rates and even debt cancellation. Enhanced trade opportunities could promote economic recovery and growth. Such relief would allow the fledgling and financially weak democracies to adjust and improve their economies. He stressed that democracies born out of long and debilitating conflicts were not equipped to repair the damage to their basic infrastructure. Peace would have to be bolstered by development programmes aimed at promoting reconstruction.

(more)

* * *

The Eleventh United Nations North American NGO Symposium on the Question of Palestine began today in Toronto, Canada. The three-day Conference is being convened by the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People with the theme, "Palestine: Towards a Just and Lasting Peace -- Focus on Mobilizing NGO Support for Cooperation and Development". Participants will discuss reconstruction and nation-building during the transition period, in light of the Declaration of Principles and the subsequent agreements signed by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

* *** *